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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/643,953 | 08/20/2003 | Takeshi Nishino | 122.1565 | 4976 |
| 21171 | 7590 | 08/18/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005 | | | DESIR, PIERRE LOUIS | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2617 | |

DATE MAILED: 08/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/643,953 | NISHINO ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Pierre-Louis Desir | 2617 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 June 2006.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,5,9,10,17,19,20 and 22-29 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,5,9,10,17,19,20 and 22-29 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 20 August 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed on 02/08/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argue that neither of the cited passages, as applied to claim 1, discloses changing the operation mode of the pointing device according to content displayed on the display screen at the time the pointing device is operated.

Examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicant while reminding applicants that broadly written claims are broadly interpreted by examiner. As stated in the previous Office Action, Nishimoto discloses that the finger is shifted while it is in contact with the sensor window so as to set the pointer to a desired menu among menus displayed on the LCD (i.e., according to contents displayed). An optical image of the finger, detected by the image sensor, is transmitted to the CPU through an image sensor interface so that, for example, the shifting direction and the shift distance of finger 30 are found. Based upon the shifting direction and the shift distance of the finger thus found, the CPU shifts the pointer displayed on the LCD through the LCD interface. A proper input key is pressed with the pointer indicating the necessary information to select the corresponding information. Thus, the information is displayed on the LCD. According to the menu displayed on the LCD, when the device is operated, the operational mode of the pointing device is changing relative to the finding of the shifting direction (i.e., determination of the direction in which the operational object (cursor or pointer) can be moved) and the shift distance of the finger (direction of which the pointing device can be operated) (see page 1, paragraphs 9, 52-53). Therefore, the rejection, as applied to that limitation, stands.

Applicants further argue that the apparatus taught by Hotta limits the direction in which the cursor can be moved during the operation of the mouse. Hotta, add applicants, fails to disclose or suggest defining the direction in advance. To support this argument, applicants assert that Hotta discloses that if the user presses a button on the mouse, then the horizontal and vertical encoders are compared such that only the output from the encoder having the larger value is input to the CPU.

Examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicants. Hotta discloses a device comprising precisely shift a cursor on a display in the completely horizontal or vertical direction by operating the cursor while pressing a switch provided on a mouse. The shift extents of a mouse are inputted to a CPU from a horizontal component and a vertical component (see abstract). If a switch is pressed under such conditions, the CPU compares the horizontal component with the vertical component and then changes the smaller component. If the switch is not pressed, the inputted components are sent to the host side as they are. Thus, the extents of the shift of the mouse are inputted in (advance) and depending on whether a switch 15 is pressed, the CPU would compare different components. If not, the inputted components are sent to the host side. Therefore, the rejection as applied to that limitation stands.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 17, 20, 23, 25, 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishimoto, Pub. No. US 20020155857, in view of Hotta et al. (Patent abstract Of Japan Publication Number: 05181603) (cited by Applicants).

Regarding claim 1, Nishimoto discloses a pointing device that can be operated to move an operational object on a display screen in any 360-degree direction (i.e., the pointer can be set to a desired piece of information by inherently moving the pointer in the direction of that piece of information) (see abstract, and paragraph 14), comprising: a control unit for changing an operation mode of said pointing device according to contents displayed on said display screen at the time the pointing device is operated, wherein the control unit determines a direction in which the operational object can be moved on the display screen according to the operation mode, and defines the direction in which the operational object can be moved on the display screen, as a current direction which the pointing device can be operated (i.e., the finger is shifted while it is in contact with the sensor window so as to set the pointer to a desired menu among menus displayed on the LCD. An optical image of the finger, detected by the image sensor, is transmitted to the CPU through an image sensor interface so that, for example, the shifting direction and the shift distance of finger 30 are found. Based upon the shifting direction and the shift distance of the finger thus found, the CPU shifts the pointer displayed on the LCD through the LCD interface. A proper input key is pressed with the pointer indicating the necessary information to select the corresponding information. Thus, the information is displayed on the LCD. According to the menu displayed on the LCD, when the device is operated, the operational mode of the pointing device is changing relative to the finding of the shifting direction (i.e., determination of the direction in which the operational object (cursor or pointer) can be moved)

and the shift distance of the finger (direction of which the pointing device can be operated)) (see page 1, paragraphs 9, 52-53).

Although Nishimoto discloses a device as described, Nishimoto does not specifically disclose a device wherein the control unit defines the direction **in advance** in which said pointing device can be operated.

However, Hotta discloses a device comprising precisely shift a cursor on a display in the completely horizontal or vertical direction by operating the cursor while pressing a switch provided on a mouse. The shift extends of a mouse are inputted to a CPU from a horizontal component and a vertical component (see abstract). Thus, the CPU or control unit defines the direction in advance, in which the cursor can be operated. If a switch is pressed under such conditions, the CPU compares the horizontal component with the vertical component and then changes the smaller component. If the switch is not pressed, the inputted components are sent to the host side as they are. Thus, the extents of the shift of the mouse are inputted in (advance) and depending on whether a switch 15 is pressed, the CPU would compare different components. If not, the inputted components are sent to the host side.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings as described to arrive at the claimed invention. A motivation for doing so would have been to provide to the user a further enhancement as related to ensure the precisely shifting of the cursor on the display (see abstract).

Regarding claim 17, Nishimoto discloses a mobile telephone comprising a pointing device (see claim 1 rejection, and abstract).

Regarding claim 20, Nishimoto discloses a mobile telephone (see claim 17 rejection) wherein said control unit is constituted in a main control unit of said mobile telephone (i.e., CPU) (see fig. 3).

Regarding claim 23, Nishimoto discloses a method for controlling a pointing device, that can be operated to move an operational object on a display screen in any 360-degree direction (i.e., the pointer can be set to a desired piece of information by inherently moving the pointer in the direction of that piece information) (see abstract, and paragraph 14) comprising the controlling step of: changing an operational mode of said pointing device according to contents displayed on said display screen at the time the pointing device is operated, wherein the control unit determines a direction in which the operational object can be moved on the display screen according to the operation mode, and defines the direction in which the operational object can be moved on the display screen, as a current direction which the pointing device can be operated (see page 1, paragraphs 9, 52-53, and refer to claim 1 reasoning).

Although Nishimoto discloses a method as described, Nishimoto does not specifically disclose a method wherein the control unit defines the direction **in advance** in which said pointing device can be operated.

However, Hotta discloses a method wherein to precisely shift a cursor on a display in the completely horizontal or vertical direction by operating the cursor while pressing a switch provided on a mouse. The shift extends of a mouse are inputted to a CPU from a horizontal component and a vertical component (see abstract). Thus, the CPU or control unit defines the direction in advance, in which the cursor can be operated.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings as described to arrive at the claimed invention. A motivation for doing so would have been to provide to the user a further enhancement as related to ensure the precisely shifting of the cursor on the display (see abstract).

Regarding claim 25, Nishimoto discloses a mobile telephone (i.e., mobile terminal) (see abstract) comprising a pointing device that can be operated to move an operational object on a display screen in any 360-degree direction (i.e., the pointer can be set to a desired piece of information by inherently moving the pointer in the direction of that piece information) (see abstract, and paragraph 14), a control unit for changing an operational mode of said pointing device according to contents displayed on said display screen at the time the pointing device is operated, wherein the control unit determines a direction in which the operational object can be moved on the display screen according to the operation mode, and defines the direction in which the operational object can be moved on the display screen, as a current direction which the pointing device can be operated (see page 1, paragraphs 9, 52-53, and refer to claim 1 reasoning).

Although Nishimoto discloses a device as described, Nishimoto does not specifically disclose a device wherein the control unit defines the direction **in advance** in which said pointing device can be operated.

However, Hotta discloses a device wherein to precisely shift a cursor on a display in the completely horizontal or vertical direction by operating the cursor while pressing a switch provided on a mouse. The shift extends of a mouse are inputted to a CPU from a horizontal

component and a vertical component (see abstract). Thus, the CPU or control unit defines the direction in advance, in which the cursor can be operated.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings as described to arrive at the claimed invention. A motivation for doing so would have been to provide to the user a further enhancement as related to ensure the precisely shifting of the cursor on the display (see abstract).

Regarding claim 29, Nishimoto discloses a mobile telephone (see claim 25 rejection) wherein the control unit is constituted in a main control unit of the mobile telephone i.e., CPU) (see figs. 3, 6, 9, 10, 17).

4. Claims 5, 9, 10, 19, 22, 24, 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishimoto and Hotta, in further view of Kim, U.S. Patent No. 6765598.

Regarding claims 5 and 26, the combination (Nishimoto and Hotta) discloses a pointing device and a mobile telephone as described above (see claims 1 and 25 rejections).

Although the combination discloses a pointing device and a mobile telephone as described, the combination does not specifically disclose a pointing device and a telephone wherein said control unit has moving amount adjusting means for moving said operational object by a predetermined step value when said pointing device is operated.

However, Kim discloses a device (see abstract) wherein the speed of movement of the movable pointer can be adjusted as a function of whether the variation in the X coordinate values is greater than or less than the variation in the Y coordinate values (see col. 5, line 66 through col. 6, line 2). Furthermore, Kim discloses an on-screen pointer speed controller for controlling

the speed of movement of the on-screen pointer between icons, according to a predetermined control signal (see col. 1, line 67 to col. 2, line 9). Thus, the on-screen pointer speed controller inherently adjusts the movement of the pointer by controlling the speed of movement of the on-screen pointer between icons.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add the characteristics of the device as described by Kim with the characteristics of the combination's disclosure to arrive at the claimed invention. A motivation for doing so would have been to ensure the proper calibration of the pointer.

Regarding claims 9 and 27, the combination discloses a pointing device as described above (see claims 5 and 26 rejection).

Although the combination discloses a pointing device and a telephone as described, the combination does not specifically disclose a pointing device and a telephone wherein said moving amount adjusting means move said operational object by the predetermined step value when the amount of operation of said pointing device takes the maximum value.

However, Kim discloses a device (see abstract) wherein the speed of movement of the movable pointer can be adjusted (see col. 5, line 66 through col. 6, line 2) wherein the moving the movable pointer at a first speed when the variation in the Y coordinate values is greater than the variation in the X coordinate values (see col. 6, lines 5-8); and the moving the movable pointer at a second speed when the variation in the X coordinate values is greater than the variation in the Y coordinate values, and wherein the second speed is faster than the first speed (see col. 6, lines 9-13. Also refer to col. 1, line 67 to col. 2, line 19).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add the characteristics of the device as described by Kim with the characteristics of the combination's disclosure to arrive at the claimed invention. A motivation for doing so would have been to ensure the proper calibration of the pointer.

Regarding claims 10 and 28, the combination discloses a pointing device as described above (see claims 5 and 27 rejection).

Although the combination discloses a pointing device and mobile telephone as described, the combination does not specifically disclose a pointing device and mobile telephone wherein said moving amount adjusting means move said operational object by the predetermined step value when the amount of operation of said pointing device exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

However, Kim discloses a device (see abstract) wherein the speed of movement of the movable pointer can be adjusted (see col. 5, line 66 through col. 6, line 2) wherein the moving the movable pointer at a first speed when the variation in the Y coordinate values is greater than the variation in the X coordinate values (see col. 6, lines 5-8); and the moving the movable pointer at a second speed when the variation in the X coordinate values is greater than the variation in the Y coordinate values, and wherein the second speed is faster than the first speed (see col. 6, lines 9-13. Also refer to col. 1, line 67 to col. 2, line 19).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add the characteristics of the device as described by Kim with the characteristics of the combination's disclosure to arrive at the claimed invention. A motivation for doing so would have been to ensure the proper calibration of the pointer.

Regarding claim 19, Nishimoto discloses a mobile telephone comprising a pointing device (see claim 5 rejection, and abstract).

Regarding claim 22, Nishimoto discloses a mobile telephone (see claim 19 rejection) wherein said control unit is constituted in a main control unit of said mobile telephone (i.e., CPU) (see fig. 3).

Regarding claim 24, the combination discloses a method as described above (see claim 23 rejection).

Although the combination discloses a method as described above, the combination does not specifically disclose a method wherein the pointing device can be operated to move said operational object at any speed, and wherein said controlling step has the moving amount adjusting step of moving said operational object by a predetermined step value when said pointing device is operated.

However, Kim discloses a method for controlling a pointing device (see abstract) wherein the pointing device can be operated to move the operational object at any speed (i.e., the on-screen pointer speed controller controls the on-screen pointer to move between icons of different levels at a speed faster than an initially-set movement speed) (see col. 4, lines 49-51), and wherein said controlling step has the moving amount adjusting step of moving said operational object by a predetermined step value when said pointing device is operated (i.e., the speed of movement of the movable pointer can be adjusted as a function of whether the variation in the X coordinate values is greater than or less than the variation in the Y coordinate values) (see col. 5, line 66 through col. 6, line 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add the characteristics of the pointing device as described by Kim with the characteristics of the combination's disclosure device to arrive at the claimed invention. A motivation for doing so would have been to ensure the proper calibration of the pointer.

Conclusion

5. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pierre-Louis Desir whose telephone number is (571) 272-7799. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00AM- 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild can be reached on (571) 272-4090. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Pierre-Louis Desir
08/15/2006



ERIKA A. GARY
PRIMARY EXAMINER